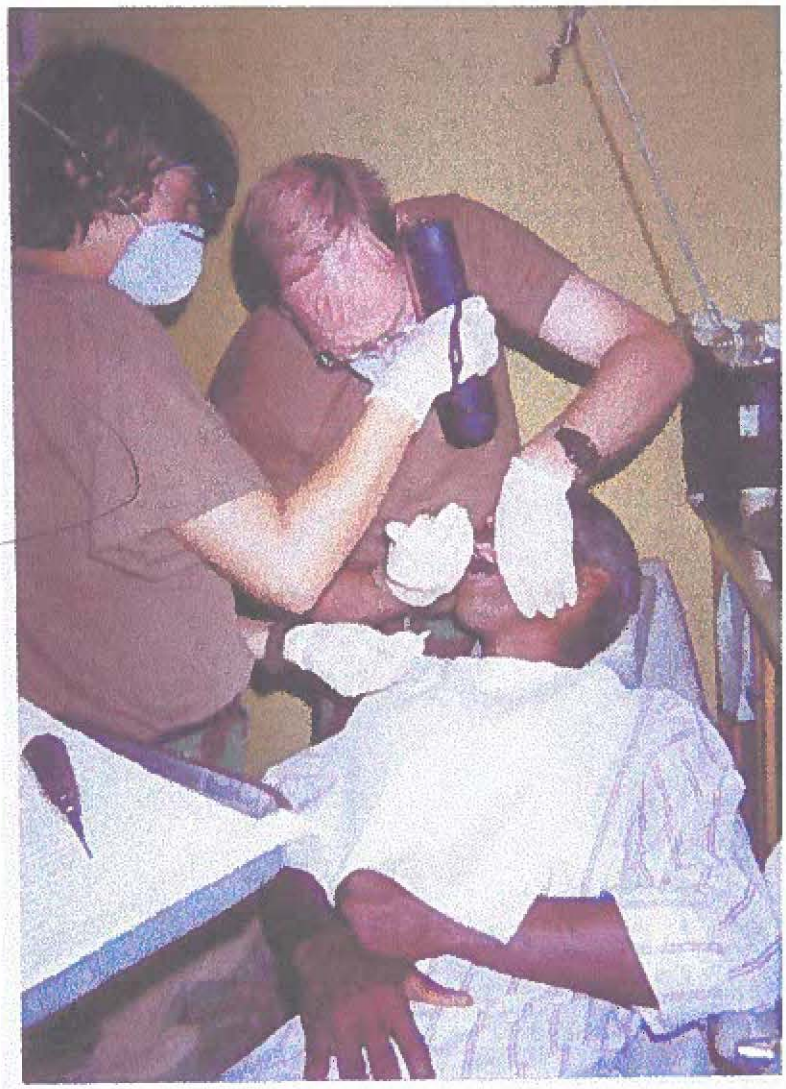
GATOR AID

Vol. 1, Issue 7 "The News of the 4th Dental Battalion" 30 Sep 99

"NAVY DENTISTRY GETTING THE JOB DONE"



Heat, humidity, helo's and hard work were the themes for the Dominician Republic Medrete which took place 09-25 July. Three dental officers and four technicians joined a group of medical types and marines for the exercise, which was part of Operation Caribbean Castle. The dental department was under the inspiring leadership of CAPT Steve "High and Tight" Creal, also the 24th Dental Company's Commandiing Officer. Joining Capt Creal was Capt Doug Glesmann, CDR Craig Spencer, DTC (S) Estelle Catron, DT1 Mark Titus, and DT3 Bruce Turner, all from the 4th Dental Battalion, and DT1 Richard Cosme, an invaluable interpreter on loan from H&S Co of the 4th Medical Battalion.

All personnl were berthed at an Army base camp in Monte Plata, a coverted cow pasture about 60 miles north of Santo Domingo. From the base camp transportation was provided daily to and from the assigned work sites by Chinook helicopters (HC-47's) flown by the Alabama National Guard.

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4TH DENTAL BATTALION ADVENTURES TO DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

The **"Gator Aid"** is the **quarterly** publication of the 4th Dental Battalion. **Article submission guidelines**: Send material at any time! Articles may be sent as e-mail, or as a wordprocessor file. Floppy disk by mail ok. NO FAXES of articles or graphics. Pictures sent in will be returned after use. Picture and wordprocessor files can be sent as file attachments. We regret that all material cannot be used due to size limitations. Material submitted and not used in this issue will be used in the next issue. Subscription is free.
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FROM THE BRIDGE...

Captain Mark W. Biolo, DC, USNR
Commanding Officer, 4th Dental Battalion, 4th FSSG

THE TROUBLE WITH WINNING**

CAPT Mark W. Biolo
Commanding Officer

It seems as though it was just a week ago that I stood in this very spot reading the orders that assigned me as the Commanding Officer of the 4th Dental Battalion. It is hard to believe that in just a few moments I will once again read orders, orders that will end my two years as leader of the finest military organization in the United States Navy/Marine Corps Team. It is tradition that the departing Commanding Officer use his remarks to thank all those who contributed to the success of his command and I too shall use this opportunity to do so.

First and foremost I must thank my family for all they have sacrificed during not only these past two years in command but throughout the "pipeline" to get here. I know that you are proud of me and I know that you understand the seriousness with which every officer undertakes his oath to " . . . support and defend the constitution of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign and domestic . . ." But I also know the pain you felt with each missed birthday, each concert, recital, and athletic contest with Dad on the road. I understand the frustration of having your husband or father holed up in the den nearly every night on the phone or the ever present RNET. To my wife, Yuki, my children Justin, Alyssa, Marisa and Claire, thank you. You could not have been a better support system. And Alyssa I must say a special "thanks" to you whose every minute is a struggle just to get through the day. You have taught me more about love and courage than anyone could ever know. I don't know what my life would be without you. "You are the wind beneath my wings."

The contributors to the success of the command are many - a brilliant Inspector/Instructor Staff, outstanding Company Commanders, and, without question, a magnificent crew. It has indeed been an honor to serve with each of you.

It has always been my contention that one of the most important duties of this office is the "growing" of leaders within our organization. I have spent endless hours in that endeavor and it only seems fitting that I leave you with one last lesson.

Before the sun sets today my picture will be off the wall, my name off the door, and my standing orders replaced. But the success of this organization will, I sincerely hope, continue for the rest of its life. Success, however, provides its own challenges and as my final charge to the crew of this command I want to spend a few minutes addressing this very issue.

The 4th Dental Battalion has become the benchmark for excellence in Navy Reserve Medicine. We are at the top of the game and we have come to know the true meaning of success. But now the difficult part lies just ahead - maintaining this winning streak. Maintaining this level of success is going to take some serious *LEADERSHIP* in all corners of this organization and each and every one of you will have to step up to the plate. Each of you will have to become ***LEADERS***.

Now success is not often correctly recognized as a leadership challenge. Success is traditionally considered a desirable result of good leadership, not a hurdle to be overcome. Yet success produces stress and tension that themselves often become the most difficult obstacles to continued success.

Unless you have been in a leadership position for some time you may not appreciate the problem. Perhaps an analogy from our national pastime will serve as illustration.

In a baseball lineup every man has a role. The first man is supposed to get on base - by a base on balls, being hit by a pitch, a bunt - however he can. The second man is tasked to advance that base runner. The third man in the lineup is usually the team's best hitter, someone who can be relied upon to get some action going on the base paths. Someone who can set the scene for the next hitter.

The next person in the lineup is the one we are all interested in, for next we have the number four batter. The power man. The "cleanup" hitter.

What is his role? His role is to carry the day. The "cleanup" hitter is expected to produce when there are men on base. He is expected to break up ball games. A good "cleanup" hitter can lift his entire ball club nearly every day. And he is expected to do just that.

Not everyone has the emotional stamina to hit "cleanup". Even in the major leagues very few teams have two men who can effectively hit as the number four man in a batting order.

Hitting fourth doesn't seem that difficult to the average fan. If someone can hit, why should the order matter? Most cleanup hitters don't have an average as high as other hitters who precede or follow them in the order. Some don't lead their club in homers. No "cleanup" hitter ever leads in triples.

What there aren't, on any team, are two or three guys who can take the pressure of hitting fourth and still hit for average. There are few people who both have the tools and their own toolbox.

It is fascinating to see what happens if the manager of a losing team yields to fan pressure and substitutes someone else on the team in fourth place in the batting order. Almost inevitably the substitute starts to falter. His average steadily drops toward .200. His fielding suffers. The team continues to swoon.

Why? Simple. Expectations and stress. In baseball there is nearly a century of tradition that assigns the "cleanup" man the responsibility of being the team's big hitter. He carries the burden for everyone else on the team. His position in the batting order calls out loudly to each and every opposing pitcher, "show me your best stuff!"

If the "cleanup" hitter can hit the pitcher, that pitcher becomes easier for everyone else on the team to beat. I'm not sure why. It may be because the pitcher has put his best effort into pitching to the fourth hitter and then relaxes. Perhaps the man on the mound loses his confidence. Maybe he actually tires after expending so much emotional and physical energy on the "cleanup" hitter. Whatever the cause, it happens, game after game and summer after summer.

There are very few men who can accept the stress of this responsibility for themselves and for their team. Most men, even major leaguers, will crumble if forced to hit fourth. At the same time, no team is competitive if it is missing a good fourth place batter. Every team needs a good cleanup hitter.

So does every good organization.

The "cleanup" hitter in baseball is the closest analogy I can think of to the leader in an organization such as a military unit. The good organization leader never strikes out with runners in scoring position. The good leader never makes a bad decision about an important issue. The good leader routinely carries a streak that would make any DiMaggio envious.

But don't think establishing such a streak is easy. Being counted on to do well each and every time is a terrible strain. Most people cannot carry the burden.

You know it is sinfully easy to win as the underdog. It is not so soft as the favorite. Just as the best horse carries a heavier weight, the favorite carries the stress of expectation. As the front-runner you don't receive any praise for winning, or for a merely good decision. But you certainly get more than your fair share of criticism for losing. As the favorite you learn that being at the top carries with it the terrible burden of always performing - for leaders this equates to always being right.

How do you cope with the pressures of being the favorite, the stress of being leaders? By winning.

The persons who would be exceptional leaders have to become comfortable with being the people everyone always relies upon. The pressure isn't just for a week. The pressure is not just for a month. The stress for real leaders lasts day in and night out for years.

Good leaders routinely establish records difficult to appreciate fully. Think about it in baseball terms. In every baseball season several hitting or winning streaks develop. As each starts and gathers momentum, it accumulates press and fan interest like an autumn wind snatching leaves. However, usually within a couple of weeks, no matter how good the player or the team, the streak collapses. Exceptions, like Mark MacGwire or Sammy Sosa, make covers for Time magazine.

Unlike their baseball peers, men and women who would be contenders for an organization's top jobs have to keep a streak going for years. How do they do it?

It is more than starting early and staying late. It is learning how to be comfortable with winning. Learning how to deal with the pressure of grand expectations, with the strain of stress.

I know of only way to learn how to deal with stress. There is only one way to recognize what is happening when your throat gets tight . . . when your head seems faint . . . when your stomach curls itself tighter than a September pennant chase. You have to experience it. It isn't the flu. It isn't Scarlet Fever or Lyme disease. It is simply fear of being wrong.

To grow into a leader the individual has to learn that he will actually live through the effects of fear. Roosevelt was right. More is lost from fear of failure than failure itself.

How does one learn that he will actually survive the fear that seems so intense it will stop his heart from beating? Just as one learns most other things - practice.

You can learn to win by playing chess, poker, competing in talent contests, raising dairy cows for the county fair, or anything else. You can learn to win in team sports, if your performance (or lack thereof) makes a real difference to the team. But, however you choose to compete, you have to try to win. You cannot settle for second or third or just plain to participate. You must try for the grand prize and experience the stress of winning.

And the sorrow of losing.

Then decide which is most painful to you.

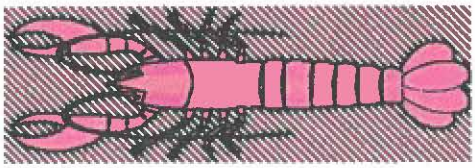
Remember well the pain and anguish of losing. Tie it up with a bow and store it somewhere in your heart. Blaze the path to the spot. Whenever you start to forget, you want to peek in the box. The memory will help you fight through the stress of making decisions.

Good leaders are men and women who have practiced deciding. They are men and women who have faced the stress of making decisions many times. They recognize the physical and mental ghosts that rise like vapors from the cauldron labeled "the fear of being wrong". Leaders are men and women who can address these goblins by their first names.

Good leaders are those who stride around and past those who fear being wrong more than they enjoy winning. Leaders are those who can accept the stress of making decisions as the public favorite.

Shipmates of the 4th Dental Battalion, you have learned to win. Now practice winning. Then take the next step. Learn to win as the favorite.

FROM THE OPEN CLAW
CAPT M.M. Capirano, DC,USNR
Executive Officer, 4th Dental Battalion, 4th FSSG



"Welcome Aboard"

End of two years, change of command, over grade waivers, old out, new in, new Officers, new Enlisted, new Inspector and Instructor personnel, end of tour awards,retirement, easy transition, difficult transition, more confusion, less confusion, attempting to maintain some degree of readiness, are many developments with or without solutions that seem to arise during this predetermined rotational cycle. Commands, Companies, and Detachments, which have been working and succeeding to achieve their individual assignments,are now destined to be reorganized and re-manned. Different COs, XOs, and OICs are about to take control of new organizations and attempt to continue to the best of their ability to create a better and more efficient health care support entity. If something is working quite efficiently, why change to attempt to fix it? Rotational cycles of command are intended to update, refurbish, replenish and negate home steading for a positive and established continuum of command. Everyone qualified gets their day in the sun. So on predetermined schedules each organization must be subjected to **"change".**

Major objectives of this change is to enhance all positive accomplishments and to maintain the high level of dedication achieved by their predecessors. On the other hand, all negativity should be reduced to a minimum. Sometimes these positions are not numerous enough to allow for one on one rotational placement. In these unfortunate situations, the best scenario for placement must be followed and dealt with accordingly. At times, it seems totally mysterious the way the pendulum swings. I would like to wish all new perspective and/or reassigned 4th Dental Battalion members a hearty "Welcome Aboard" and good luck in their new and/or reassigned Battalion positions.

From the Goat Locker

By DTCM Jill Fernandez, USNR, Command Master Chief

BRAVO ZULU

From the Goat Locker

By DTCM Jill Fernandez, USNR, Command Master Chief

Bravo Zulu

Congratulations to our new CPO selectees, DTC (Sel) Kenneth Russell, 4th DENCO DET 2, DTC (Sel) Estella Catron, 24th DENCO DET 2 and DTC (Sel) Susan Andersen, 14 DENCO DET 2. The Battalion can be proud to know that out of the 4 Chief's selected, 3 were 8707's within the Battalion.

The position of chief petty officer is one of special honor. It shows not only that you have served successfully, but that your service has met with the approval of your seniors, that you are proficient, trustworthy and reliable. You are under the watchful eye of your juniors and seniors alike. Anything they see you do, they naturally think it is all right. You must set the standard, live up to it and you will find that those under you will be more inclined to do likewise.

In no other services is the jump from E-6 to E-7 so dramatic in terms of authority, responsibility and accountability. The khaki immediately identifies the Chief Petty Officer as someone special and they are. Congratulations to all who have earned the anchors on their collar.

Congratulations to DT1 Mary Osorio-Mort, 14th DENCO HQ, who was selected as the Sailor of the Quarter, 3rd Qtr, FY99.

8708 NEC for Dental Hygienists

Navy Personnel Command has established a Naval Enlisted Classification (NEC) of 8708 for Active and Reserve Dental Technicians who have successfully completed an accredited Dental Hygiene course of study and obtained a state license. To attain the new Dental Hygiene NEC, Reservists should consult COMNAVRESFOR message 270600Z JAN 99 for credentialing procedures and other details or call the Centralized Credentials Review and Privileging Department at 1 (800) 566-8494. Allow a minimum of 90 days for complete processing. Eligible candidates are encouraged to initiate the process immediately to enhance Reserve support in this critical skill for the Navy.

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CAPTAIN LEWIS S. LIBBY, CAPT, DC, USNR

I was honored to recently learn of my selection as the next Commanding Officer of the 4th Dental Battalion. I served on my first Marine exercise, an amphibious landing exercise at Camp Lejeune, in July of 1980, and I have spent 10 years in the 4th Dental Battalion and its precurser units.

I am humbled to follow in the footsteps of my predecessors. Captain Mark Biolo has been an extraordinary leader and advocate for the 4th Dental Battalion. He has waged many difficult and courageous fights on behalf of the men and women of the 4th Dental Battalion. I have much to learn from him. We all are grateful to him.

I am most privileged to have the opportunity of leading those whom I hold in highest esteem-- the men and women of the 4th Dental Battalion. Over the years I have worked with many of you. I have observed as you entered the Battalion for the first time. I've served with many of you and watched with pride as you were advanced and promoted. I have watched many of you grow and advance through the Battalion. And I have seen many others move beyond active duty and retire with dignity and pride. For some I have worked closely with you in the past, for others I have learned of your efforts and your effects on your fellow men and women from others. I have watched you grow and develop into the finest enlisted and officer leaders in the Navy and Marine Corps.

Now I have the honor of serving you in the 4th Dental Battalion. I ask you to use our chain of command that is part of OUR Navy Tradition and has worked so effectively in the past. The standing orders and directives of Captain Biolo will remain in effect until further notice.

I am excited to lead and represent the finest people in the Navy today, the men and women of the 4th Dental Battalion. I look forward too meeting each of you personally. Semper Fi.

LTJG JOHNNY J. ALSTON, MSC, USNR

BATTALION'S INSPECTOR/INSTRUCTOR
LTJG Johnny J. Alston, MSC, USNR

Lieutenant Junior Grade (LTJG) Johnny Jerome Alston was born in Durham, North Carolina on 17 May 1970. He graduated as 1 of the 10 scholar students from Louisburg High School in June 1988 and was the recipient of the "I Dare You Award". After graduation, he would join th

-hour/morbidity reports. Following that assignment, he reported Temporary Duty Under Instruction for Field Medical Service School at Camp Pendleton. In October 1991, his destination became 3d FSSG, 3d Medical Battalion, Okinawa, Japan. He performed the duties of administrative clerk for the S-4 section.

During November 1992, now Hospital Corpsman Third Class was transferred to 2d FSSG, 2d Medical Battalion, Bravo Company, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. His multi-talented skills would allow him to become the Assistant Training Petty Officer during the Commanding General's Inspection and Embarkation Petty Officer for Combat Service Support Detachment-27. In December 1994, he was ordered to the National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, MD for duty. After interviewing with the Command Master Chief, he would become the Administrative Assistant/Protocol Liaison for the Deputy Commander. Besides the administrative duties, this job entailed scheduling and coordination of outpatient and ambulatory procedures appointments for Members of Congress, Supreme Court Justices, Military Dignitaries and Flag Officers.

In June 1995, he was promoted to Hospital Corpsman Second Class. While performing his duties in an exemplary manner, Hospital Corpsman Second Class Alston attended classes at night and on weekends. He graduated from Southern Illinois University with a Bachelor of Science in Health Care Management, Magna cum Laude in August 1996. After his departure in December 1997, he would report to 2d FSSG, 2d Medical Battalion, H&S Company, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina for another tour with the Marine Corps. Hospital Corpsman Second Class Alston would complete his Master of Public Administration degree from Troy State University in August 1998.

Through the Inservice Procurement Program for Health Care Administration, he was selected for commissioning as a Medical Service Corps officer in the United States Naval Reserve. On 01 June 1999, Hospital Corpsman Second Class Alston was commissioned to the rank of Lieutenant Junior Grade. Upon completion of Officer Indoctrination School, he reported to the 4th FSSG, 4th Dental Battalion, H&S Company, Marietta, Georgia as the Battalion's Inspector/Instructor.

Lieutenant Junior Grade Alston has received several awards and is single with no children.

BATTALION OPERATIONS (S-3)

By CAPT Karen Petrella, DC, USNR, (S-3 OPS BOSS)

Since this will be my last GATORAID article as the OPS Officer I would like to make a some personal comments. These past two years have been the most challenging of my Naval Reserve career and the most rewarding. I think that I put more hours into this job than the rest of my time in the Reserves all together. Not all of them were pleasant but none of them were boring. I made some whopper mistakes and hope I had a few successes. Through it all I had the dedication of the men and women of the 4th Dental Battalion, both active duty and reserve, to inspire me.

Program 9. The turning point came for me early in my tenure when I was tasked on a Friday evening to come up with (by Monday morning) 2 dental officers and 6 dental techs who would go to Venezuela for a 17-day humanitarian mission with a start date about 3 weeks away. I told the Skipper that it was impossible. (He wasn't thrilled with my answer. And, he was right not to be.) What I hadn't factored in was the character of the personnel who make up this battalion. By Monday morning I had all 8 names and more. I knew then that I was working for very special people and I never underestimated you again. You should all be proud of the special commitment you have made to work and train in the 4th Dental Battalion.

The I&I. There was a time when I saw them working but just wasn't sure what the I&I "did". The answer to that, I know now, is everything that needs to be done. Operations, exercises, planning conferences, advance parties, training, orders, repairs, correspondence, equipment, credentials, DIRS, awards. "Could you find that UIC for me?" You name it, they have a hand in it. I could not have functioned for an hour in this job without this excellent staff of hardworking experts and their awesome leader, LT Bill Hartmann, who never failed to remember to put the "Big Rocks" into the bucket first. I don't think a day passed that I didn't seek his advice or guidance or just an assurance that I was headed down the right road. No friend could have more patient.

The "Skipper". Captain Biolo has told me many times that if you expect the best of people that is what they will give you. He has set "the bar" pretty high for all of us. And, I consider myself lucky (most of the time) for the experience. I've learned so much from this person whose work ethic I could never hope to equal. I have been witness to the fact that there is no boundary to how much of himself he will commit to something he believes in. He has earned my respect as the Battalion Commander.

FY2000. The emphasis on humanitarian and civ/mil operations is increasing. The battalion will be going to Belize and El Salvador, Alaska and Texas this year. Marines will receive support at the usual exercises, CAX, FIREX, AOT, EXPRESS SWORD. Some of you will have the opportunity to further your careers with schools. Whatever the mission I know you will do an outstanding job. The bar has been set. I expect that Captain Libby, LTJG Alston, the I&I and all of you exceptional Reservists in the 4th Dental Battalion will take this Battalion to new heights in the Millennium Fiscal Year. Thank you all for your support.

HEADQUARTERS

LT K. Rena Hodges, MSC, USNR, Commanding Officer

As the 4th Dental Battalion looks forward to a new fiscal year with challenging exercises and abroad opportunities, this year we also look forward to new leadership in our new Commanding Officer, CAPT Libby. I have had the pleasure of meeting CAPT Libby once before at a dining out event conducted by REDCOM Six and look forward to working with him over the next year. September is also a time to reflect on the events of the last fiscal year, and this year, to say farewell to our exiting Commanding Officer, CAPT Biolo.

I personally have incurred a huge learning curve this year with regards to the workings of Program 9. This Program offers a unique set of opportunities for all involved. With the inevitable approval of the FMF Warfare Pin, I feel that field dentistry and medicine will finally receive the recognition it has long deserved. Through this recognition, interest should be sparked among those in blue-side billets, thus easing some of green-side dental's recruitment problems. In addition to the potential for earning a warfare pin, continued innovative exercises such as Arctic Care and Urban Warrior will also promote field dentistry throughout the Naval Reserve.

The Headquarters and Service Company would also like to wish CAPT Biolo "Fair Winds and Following Seas" as he exits this command. As anyone in the Battalion will attest, his efforts have been nothing short of tireless as an advocate for field dentistry and the 4th Dental Battalion. Certainly my company would not have survived without his efforts. His leadership has been unwavering as he challenged many old barriers and even broke new ground with the first Battalion-wide IDTT, Operation Howlin' Wolf. I'm certain that I speak for the entire Battalion when I say that his tenacity and "can do" attitude will be greatly missed.

4TH DENTAL COMPANY

CAPT Jim Bird, DC,USNR Company Commander

As Fiscal Year 99 comes to a close, the "Fighting Fourth" is enjoying the satisfaction on our accomplishments of the recent past. **CDR Tom Corwin** spearheaded Operation LoneStar, which was completed in Late July. Word has it the everyone survived the South Texas July weather, and a good time was had by all. The Dental Element did a great job of providing vital dental services to this underprivileged population. The Firex, which was held in Fort Carson Colorado was also supported by our company in July. **CDR Bill Fischer** of San Diego did a great job of producing and implementing the "Battle Plan". Everyone had an opportunity to shoot some of the Big Guns, and there were plenty of teeth to be worked on. While on the Firex, **DT1 Ken Russell** discovered he had been selected for Chief Petty Officer. This promotion is a long time coming and very richly deserved. We look forward to the stories from his initiation, and his leadership from this day forward.

Fiscal Year 2000 will bring a new look to the 4th Dental Company. Myself, the XO, and possible all 5 Det. OIC's will be replaced. I would like to say that the last 2 years have been among the most challenging and rewarding time I have spent in my Military career. Our Detachments have provided Dental Support from Billings, Montana to Yuma, Arizona. We have traveled with the Marines to the frigid climate of Bethel, Alaska to the sweltering temperatures of 29 Palms. Over the past two years, the 4th Dental Company has produced a Master Chief, a Senior Chief, 2 Chief Petty Officers, 2 Captains, and a MARFORRES Sailor of the Year. All of our Officers, except one, are C-4 qualified, and our sailors are 95% plus 8707 qualified.

I am confident that the 4th Dental Company will continue to be one of the finest Military units this nation has to offer. The Pride, Professionalism, level of expertise and experience, and the degree of commitment I have witnessed in the past two years is unparalleled by anything I have seen in the Active Duty Community. I know our Senior Enlisted Sailors will provide the leadership necessary to continue the tradition of excellence of the "Fighting Fourth."

14TH DENTAL COMPANY

CAPT P. Varnis,DC,USNR Company commander

Greetings to all our shipmates in the 4th Dental Battalion. The 14th Dental Company has had a productive fourth quarter. I take great pleasure in highlighting our activities and hope all our personnel have rewarding AT's with the various missions tasked to the company.

Members have participated in several AT's to date. Capt Dave Jameson, CDR Osure Stokes, and LT Bormann provided treatment during Arctic Care 99. DT2 Sam Garcia and DT2 Natalie Brill attended the Navy Leadership Continuum at Newport RI. DT3 Kate Noble is pounding out the miles at NECAP. LCDR Nick Demasi weathered the academic and "environmental" challenges ofC-4. CAPT (sel) Bill Hartman, CAPT(sel) Doug Henschel and CDR Gary Woerz each attended planning conferences for their respective exercises: CAX-7,8 and the AOT in San Diego. Both RADM(s) Mo Hill and Capt Mark Biolo visited the element during the two week training and contributory support at Camp Wilson. CAPT (sel) Henschel, Capt Dan Bellebaum, Capt Pristernik, Capt Bruce Doll, LCDR Mark Wuchner, DTC Roxanne Todd, DT2 Dana Register, DT2 Jose Marrero were among those who recently completed a successful two weeks as the dental element CDR Woerz (OIC), LCDR Brian Hodgson, DTCS Paul Morgan, DT1's Joanne Rosato and Mary Osorio-Mort were among the personnel involved with CAX-7 & 8. In July, Capt(sel) Hartman led another dental element (LCDR Kevin Atkins, DT1 Fabre Shiloh, DT2 Staci Dean,DT3 Christina Craddick and DT3 Mills Riley) during Amphibious Operations Training-99(Exercise Summer Thunder) in Coronado.

While the AT activity has taken center stage, our personnel were involved in numerous achievements and milestones. DT3 Noble raised $325.00 during her 25 mile bikethon. It is particularly pleasing to see a star above the anchor devices on DTCS Morgan collar, our company SENIOR chief. As is his way, he will tell you that as the company senior chief he is most pleased that ALL FIVE DT1's in our company (Susan Andersen, Chris Bailey, Yolanda Fabre-Shiloh, Mary Osorio Mort, and Joanne Rosato)qualified for the DTC Board. This year was an extremely difficult selection with many fine people to evaluate. DTC(sel) Andersen recently received the good news about her selection. We are proud of all the candidates and selectees. Good news for Capts (sel) Henschel and Hartmann who recently received news from the selection board - it is well deserved. A warm welcome to DN Berry who has recently joined the company.

The routine of training and contributory support continues in concert with the dynamic character of company life. Our personnel remain flexible and innovative. Detachment 2 completed a move to their new reseve center in Fort Schuyler, NY. Despite the FY 99 waiver for dental disqualification to participate in an AT, our personnel have aggressively sought out opportunities to maintain marine unit readiness at high levels. We have also benefitted from VTU members (Capt Joe Wanders DC USNR) and other unit personnel (Capt Ed Pristernik DC USNR, Fleet Hospital) who have coordinated their schedules with ours to provide contributory support to the marines. The spirit of Howlin' Wolf continues as we prepare for another TEEP and several fond hails and farewells to members of the "Green Side".

We congratulate Capt.Mark Biolo DC, USNR on his tour as commanding officer, and to thank him and wish him success with his future plans. We extend a warm welcome to Capt.Lew Libby DC, USNR as the new commanding officer.

The company has worked cohesively to respond to the missions in which we have participated. I hope all of our members have had memorable AT's. I look forward to seeing you at the change of command on 18 Sept and the new cycle of preparations for FY00.

24TH DENTAL COMPANY

CAPT Stephen M. Creal, DC,USNR, Company Commander

WHY DO WE DO THIS?

"As night fell, Hitler's timetable was already falling apart, thanks to an unknown squad of GI's here, a platoon over there, fighting although surrounded and fighting until their ammunition gave out." CITIZEN SOLDIER by Stephen Ambrose. This is how our fathers and grandfathers met Hitler's counter offensive, the Battle of the Bulge, in the winter of 1945. Hopefully "we" Americans in this new millennium have the courage, honor and commitment to choose the road less traveled and face the enemy as did the Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines who have gone before us.

One of the last lines of "SAVING PRIVATE RYAN" rings in my heart as I read about our Country's battles. "Have I led a life that was worth the sacrifices made by my brothers in fighting and dying for my freedom?"

Once a MARINE always a MARINE. I survived Viet Nam as a Radar Intercept Officer with 285½ combat missions and five other years of training. I also spent two years active duty in our Navy Dental Corps and I'm finishing my 22nd year as a Navy Reservist.

So why do we work our weekends for little pay, continually get our orders and tickets for our AT 's two days after the report date, press on when promotions are hard to earn, do the job without reimbursement or recognition, give up lots of family time, plan our careers around Navy requirements, and continue to watch things change, hoping for the best and always falling short.

My answer to this question is that it is something bigger than my self and YOU. The young MARINE with the rifle who is more likely to make the ultimate sacrifice represents the something bigger than myself. I love the Corps, it's traditions of courage and honor. It is a privilege for me to be supporting the MARINE, it's not a job, it's exciting ,it's fun, it's my payback to all those who have sacrificed for me.

And I'm associated with the best in the Navy Dental Corps in carrying out this privilege. "YOU" are people like DTC(sel) Estella Catron, Capt Dale Nanny, DT-2 Matt Bartlett, Capt Doug Glesmann, DT-1 Mark Titus, Capt Jerry Roach, MC, USNR, DT-1 Grant Abbott, Capt Jim Miller, DTCM King, Capt Karen Petrella, DT-1 Howard Overacker, CDR Don Wexler, DT-2 Stephen Courtney, CDR Doug Wright, DT-3 Ann Marie Wilson, CDR Craig Spencer, DT-3 Timothy Owen, LCDR Bryan Shields, DTC Paul Browne, CDR Jeff Korsnes, DT-2 Rouse, LT Hartman, DT-3 Bruce Turner and all of YOU in the 4th Dental Battalion.

Thanks to all for helping me serve the 24th Dental Company and 4th Dental Battalion to the best of my ability. SEMPER FI, SM CREAL, DC, USNR

Family Support Corner

for the Key Volunteer Network

Making a Family/Personal Care File

In case your loved one gets activated are you ready? Do you have all your personal and legal affairs in order? Many people don't realize that taking the time NOW will SAVE time and money in the future.

What to prepare:

1 Physical and Medical Information
2 Important Documents
3 Civilian employment record
4. Wills
5. Letter of Instruction
6. Power of Attorney
7. Family/Personal Care Plan
8. Guardianship

Don't be left out in the cold, prepare NOW.

Again, communication is the key, if you have a question feel free to call, fax or E-mail me or your company key person at anytime. One of us will respond with an answer as soon as possible.

You can reach me at home #212-533-1860, Fax #718-792-7972, or E-mail: FREDWILSN@AOL.COM.

Semper Fi Shipmates.

Fred Wilson

While there are many ways to break in your leather boots, the following method is highly recommended by the staff at FMSS.

1. **Wet your boots with hot water**
2. **Using shaving cream and a stiff nylon brush or scrub pad, scrub the leather to remove the oil protectant and loosen the leather.**
3. **Rinse boots with hot water and wear them wet until they are dry. Doing this will allow the leather to mold to your feet and eliminate any rough edges.**
4. **Wear your boots as often as possible, hike in them, mow the grass in them, the best way to break them in is to wear them.**
5. **Check out gel inner soles for your boots.**

No method is full proof, so I suggest you buy some moleskin and carry it with you . As they say in the Marine Corps, your boots are your "Black Cadillac's", they are your mode of transportation, take care of them and they will take care of you.

4TH DENTAL BATTALION
PHONE NUMBER CHANGE

OLD NUMBER	NEW NUMBER	SECTION
4931	4395	DENTAL
2301	4396	DENTAL
4725	4397	DENTAL
5044	4398	DENTAL
5116	4399	FAX
3893	4377	MEDICAL
3894	4388	MEDICAL
3197	4389	MEDICAL

Week number one was spent working at a "hospital " in the city of Yamasa. This facility served a population of 100,000 people , but had no running water and other amenities we're used to in the U.S. The dental department's mission was extraction of symptomatic and infected teeth on the local population. Equipment was provided courtesy of the Army and did not include x-ray , air, water, or suction capabilities. Power outages were daily occurrences, during whichtime flashlights were put to good use. Forceps and elevators were the instrument s of choice, along with an occasional hammer and chisel. "No escupir(no spitting) became our battle cry and victory in removing difficult teeth in these conditions was realized.

Work the second week took place in the smaller farming community of Don Juan. We set up shop in the classroom of the local school, which in all honesty, presented cleaner conditions than the hospital the previous week. A great many patients were seen here as well, and all over 600 people were seen and over 800 teeth extracted. Aiding us in our efforts were the services of a handful of Dominican dentists. These were very gracious and capable individuals and a good working relationship was established with them. Dr. Louis Pichardo of Yamasa even invited the dental department to his home, where his wife served a sumptuous noon time feast.

All in all the MEDRETE was a resounding success. A great number of indigent patients were served, excellent field training in hot and humid conditions was achieved, interservce cooperation occured between the Army and Navy, and a very positive relationship was established with the host country. Personnel involved were top notch and exhib ited a continual "can-do" attitude. All four dental technicians received the Army Achievement Medal for the exercise and the officers received a Joint Services Letter of Commendation. Bravo Zulu To CAPT Creal and his troops!

By Craig W. Spencer, DC,USNR